

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A sanitary washing apparatus comprising:

a heating system configured to heat washing water, the heating system comprising a heat exchanger having a snaking internal flow path;

a human body washing nozzle having a discharge port that discharges washing water heated by the heating system so as to wash the human body; and

a nozzle cleaner having a spray port and positioned externally of the human body washing nozzle, and

the nozzle cleaner being configured to spray the washing water, heated by the heating system, in a form of at least one of high-temperature water and vapor from the spray port onto at least an outer surface of the discharge port of the human body washing nozzle so as to sterilize at least an outer surface of the human body washing nozzle adjacent the discharge port by high-temperature cleaning.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the nozzle cleaner sprays washing water having a flow rate of not less than about 0.3 liters per minute from the spray port.

4. (Previously Presented) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the temperature of the high-temperature water is not less than 55°C.

5. (Previously Presented) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the temperature of the high-temperature water is not more than 100°C.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the human body washing nozzle comprises a plurality of nozzles that respectively discharge the washing water, and

the spray port of the nozzle cleaner is provided so as to simultaneously clean the plurality of nozzles.

9.- 30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the nozzle cleaner further comprises

a washing instruction unit that issues an instruction to start the cleaning operation performed by the nozzle cleaner.

32. (Previously Presented) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the washing instruction unit comprises a remote control device that issues an instruction to start the cleaning operation by remote control.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the nozzle cleaner starts the cleaning operation at predetermined time intervals.

35. (Previously Presented) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least a part of the human body washing nozzle comprises a heat-resistant material.

36. (Original) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the heat-resistant material includes stainless steel.

37. (Previously Presented) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least a part of a surface of the human body washing nozzle is subjected to water repellent processing.

38. (Currently Amended) A sanitary washing apparatus comprising:

a first heating device configured to heat washing water, the first heating device having a snaking internal flow path;

a human body washing nozzle having a discharge port that discharges the washing water heated by the first heating device for washing the human body; and

a nozzle cleaner having a spray port and positioned externally of the human body washing nozzle,

a switching valve configured to selectively feed the washing water heated by the first heating device selectively to the human body washing nozzle or the nozzle cleaner,

the nozzle cleaner comprising an instantaneous second heating device configured to further heat the washing water fed from the first heating device through the switching valve to generate at least one of heated washing water and vapor, and the nozzle cleaner being configured to spray the at least one of heated washing water and vapor from the spray port onto at least an outer surface of the discharge port of the human body washing nozzle so as to sterilize, by high-temperature cleaning, at least an outer surface of the human body washing nozzle adjacent the discharge port.

39. (Previously Presented) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the nozzle cleaner sprays washing water having a flow rate of not less than about 0.3 liters per minute from the spray port.

40. (Previously Presented) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the temperature of the high-temperature water is not less than 55°C.

41. (Previously Presented) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the temperature of the high-temperature water is not more than 100°C.

42. (Previously Presented) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 38, wherein

the human body washing nozzle comprises a plurality of nozzles that respectively discharge the washing water, and

the spray port of the nozzle cleaner is provided so as to simultaneously clean the plurality of nozzles.

43. (Previously Presented) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the nozzle cleaner starts the cleaning operation at predetermined time intervals.

44. (Previously Presented) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 38, wherein at least a part of the human body washing nozzle comprises a heat-resistant material.

45. (Previously Presented) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 38, wherein at least a part of a surface of the human body washing nozzle is subjected to water repellent processing.